

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph on page 15, line 17, to page 16, line 2, with the following:

Once a user has loaded the autostaining apparatus, the user may start staining run. Figure 8A illustrates the general procedure of operating the autostaining device. Referring to Figure 8A, the user loads a slide/stain tray at step 801. The user then starts the apparatus by pressing the restart or stat button at step 802. The autostaining apparatus then examines all the slides to determine the slide protocols that must be performed at step 803. The system may compare a barcode sticker 420 on a slide with a barcode 411 on the cover 410 of an adjacent reagent pack to ensure that the proper reagent pack has been placed next to each slide. After examining all the slides and reagent packs, the system creates a staining schedule. Details on how the staining apparatus creates the staining schedule will be presented in the following section.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (TWICE AMENDED) An apparatus for staining specimen slides, said apparatus comprising:

at least one slide tray, said slide tray for holding at least one specimen slide and an associated accompanying specific reagent pack having reagents needed for processing said specimen slide and identifiers for a processing protocol, and